

Message Text

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44

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IT, HU

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN REACTION TO ITALIAN GOVERNMENT CRISIS

1. HUNGARIAN NEWS MEDIA IS GIVING EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO COLLAPSE OF MORO GOVERNMENT AND SITUATION THIS CREATES FOR ITALIAN COMMUNISTS. ALL MAJOR NEWSPAPER JANUARY 9 CLAIMED THAT PCI DID NOT APPROVE OF SOCIALIST WITHDRAWAL FROM GOVERNMENT, AND THAT IT DOES NOT WANT ELECTIONS HELD AT THIS TIME.

2. PARTY DAILY NEPSZABADSAG AND GOVERNMENT PAPER MAGYAR HIRLAP EXCERPTS EXTENSIVELY FROM L'UNITA EDITORIALS ON SITUATION. L'UNITA IS QUOTED AS STATING THAT "THIS IS LEAST SUITABLE TIME TO HAVE GOVERNMENT FALL", AND THAT "PCI IS COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT

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AND HOLDING OF NEW ELECTIONS BECAUSE THIS WOULD PARALYZE

GOVERNMENT WORK FOR MONTHS AND INTERRUPT DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER POSITIVE POLITICAL TRENDS".

3. NEPSZABADSAG QUOTES L'UNITA EXPLANATION THAT "PCI DOES NOT FEAR ELECTIONS BUT IS CONVINCED THAT TREND TO LEFT WILL CONTINUE". PAPER SAYS PCI WOULD PREFER THAT "CONDITIONS FIRST MATURE" BEFORE ELECTIONS ARE HELD AND THAT IS WHY "COMMUNISTS SUPPORT A SOLUTION TO PRESENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS IN ORDER TO PREVENT RIGHTIST FORCES FROM BENEFITING FROM SITUATION".

4. COMMENT: LAST STATEMENT NOT, RPT NOT, ATTRIBUTED TO L'UNITA AND PRESUMABLY REPRESENTS PRIOR GUIDANCE HSWP RECEIVED FROM MOSCOW. FACT THAT BOTH NEPSZABADSAG AND MAGYAR HIRLAP PAPERS READY WITH UNIFORM POSITION ON ITALIAN CRISIS IS INDICATION THAT HUNGARIANS HAD PARTY POSITION ALREADY ESTABLISHED WHEN SOCIALIST PULLED OUT OF GOVERNMENT. OTHERWISE, AS IS USUAL IN SUCH CASES, PAPERS WOULD HAVE CONTENTED THEMSELVES WITH REPEATING TASS COVERAGE OF EVENT WITHOUT COMMENT.
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